

St. Elizabeth ~ St. Brigid
March 9-March 15, 2008
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Schedule

Monday, March 10

8:15 AM (St. Elizabeth) Rosary
 8:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Rose & Louis Bennetto

Tuesday, March 11

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Morning Prayer
 9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Cooper

Wednesday, March 12

7:00 PM (St. Elizabeth) Confessions
 7:15 PM (St. Elizabeth) Evening Prayer
 7:30 PM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Lauddi Ford Novena

Thursday, March 13

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Morning Prayer
 9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Vincent B. Murphy, Jr.
 7:00 PM (St. Brigid) Mary's Way of the Cross

Friday, March 14

St. Patrick

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Rosary for Vocations
 9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: The Di Lullo Family
 7:00 PM (St. Brigid) Living Stations of the Cross
 7:30 PM (St. Brigid) Mass: Laoredano J. Coli

Saturday, March 15

St. Joseph

4:30 PM (St. Brigid) Confessions
 5:00 PM (St. Brigid) Mass: Mary & John O'Loughlin
 7:00 PM (St. Elizabeth) Confessions
 7:30 PM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Albert Kalafsky.

Sunday, March 16

Palm Sunday

MASSES:

7:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Friedrich Gliebe
 8:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: For the parishioners
 9:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Elaine & Kenneth Laurence
 10:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Helen Pote
 11:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Clifford Rimpo

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, March 15

5:00 PM St. Brigid

(E) R. Fielding	(L) A. McIntyre	(A) Z. Schwab
	(Narrator)	
	K. Rohrbacker	
	(Speaker)	

7:30 PM St. Elizabeth

(E) K. Howes	(L) L. Teppiccione	(A) W. Howes
	(Narrator)	
	J. Zackman	
	(Speaker)	

Sunday, March 16

7:30 AM St. Brigid

(E) L. Teppiccione	(L) S. Santucci	(A) G. Henderson
	(Narrator)	
	B. Henderson	
	(Speaker)	

8:30 AM St. Elizabeth

(E) K. Spinda	(L) J. Skinner	(A) B. Moreau
	(Narrator)	A. Skinner
	D. Duffy	
	(Speaker)	

9:30 AM St. Brigid

(E) B. Tursini	(L) C. Miguez	(A) G. & S. Henderson
	(Narrator)	
	C. Hickey	
	(Speaker)	

10:30 AM St. Elizabeth

(E) P. Jibilian	(L) J. Felser	(A) J, R, & T Lynch
	(Narrator)	
	M. Fernando	
	(Speaker)	

11:30 AM St. Brigid

(E) Sr. Joan	(L) B. Cozza	(A) P. Cozza
	(Narrator)	J. & K. Mahala
	P. Richards	
	(Speaker)	

For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven ..."

A time to heal ... please pray for the sick of our parishes including *Mary Evers*

A time to die ... please pray for those who have recently passed away..

CONTRIBUTIONS

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
 TO YOUR CHURCH AND PARISH**

St. Elizabeth March 1-2:	\$ 3,124.00
Spring Collection:	\$ 667.00
St. Brigid March 1-2:	\$ 4,753.00
Spring Collection:	\$ 2,320.00

LECTORS: Please note that there are two people assigned for Palm Sunday, March 15th and 16th. The first name listed is the Narrator for the Passion and the second name listed is the speaker.

There will be no Stations of the Cross at St. Elizabeth Church on Friday, March 14th. The children of the parish will present The Living Stations of the Cross beginning at 7 PM in St. Brigid Church with Mass to follow at 7:30 PM. There will be practice on March 12th from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM in St. Brigid Church.

2007 Contribution Statements will be mailed upon request. Call the Parish Office at 908-234-1265.



Remember in your prayers the members of our Armed Services, especially Patrick Blankenship of the USMC & Ryan O'Connor of the US Army, close friends of Jean Fall; Timothy Callahan of the US Marine Corps, son of Marie Callahan; Brendan Patrick Duffy of the U.S. Army, son of Deacon Larry & Denise Duffy, grandson of A.J. Errico; Michael Ferreira of the US Army, grandson of Anne & Bob Butler; Amanda Loomis of the US Army, cousin of Grace Ann McKeon; Maj. Seth Lucente of the US Army, brother-in-law of Philip & Kimberly Hahn; Michael Mattessich of the US Army, nephew of Tom O'Callaghan; & Jordan Weaver of the Air Force, husband of Christy (LaPointe) Weaver



NEW ALTAR SERVERS

The following children will be installed to serve our parish community as altar servers at the 11:30 AM Mass this Sunday. We ask God's blessings upon them and their families as they serve the needs of our parish.

Sophie Henderson
John Lynch
Jack Mahala
Emma O'Callaghan

Timothy Lallis
Kevin Mahala
Sabrina Marki
Kate O'Callaghan

MARY'S WAY OF THE CROSS

The Daughters of Mary will present Mary's Way of the Cross, a reflection on the Stations of the Cross from Mary's eyes on Thursday, March 13th at 7 PM in St. Brigid Church. All are invited to attend.

The Daughters of Mary will meet on Thursday, March 13th in St. Patrick Hall following Mary's Way of the Cross.

EASTER HAM ROUND UP



The Knights of Columbus will be collecting hams after the Masses at both parishes on Sunday, March 16th. Hams and turkeys that are frozen, fresh, canned or smoked will be accepted. They will be taken to the Food Bank on Sunday for distribution.

SPOTLIGHT ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION DINNER

Wednesday, April 9; Pines Manor, Edison; Cocktails: 6 PM.; Dinner: 7 PM. The proceeds will benefit Immaculate Conception School, Spotswood, and St. James School, Woodbridge. Tickets: \$200. In conjunction with the Dinner there will be a **50/50 Raffle**. Tickets: \$50 - 1000 sold. To purchase tickets for the dinner or raffle, call 732-562-2429.



Americans are called, as the U.S. Catholic Bishops have urged, to remind all government leaders "of their duty to exercise genuine moral leadership in society. [This is done] not by unthinking adherence to public opinion polls or by repeating empty pro-choice slogans but by educating and sensitizing themselves and their constituents to the humanity of the unborn child." (*Living the Gospel of Life*, National Conference of Catholic Bishops)



SEE THE GLORY OF GOD FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

This reading is a loving promise that the Lord will put His spirit into his people and will let them live.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Paul reminds the Romans that they are not people of the flesh but people of the Spirit because the Spirit of God dwells in them.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

In great detail, John tells the story of the raising of Lazarus to life. Upon learning of the death of Lazarus, his dear friend, Jesus goes to comfort Martha and Mary. After proclaiming, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," Jesus goes to the tomb of Lazarus and restores him to life.



ATTENTION ALL MOMS & TOTS: Come share a cup of coffee and join in a playgroup which will meet on Wednesday mornings beginning on March 12th from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM at the Parish Center. Contact Sharon Lynch at 234-2786 for more information.



Inspirational Spot ~ You have to do what you can, with what you have, wherever you are at the time. That's all God asks of us.

CHRISM MASS Monday, March 17 - 7:30 PM

On Monday, March 17, at 7:30 PM, Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the Priests of the Diocese. At this Mass, the Bishop will bless the Holy Oils which each parish receives for the rites of anointing. Saint Ambrose [340-397] began this custom, which we now call the Chrism Mass, in his Cathedral in Milan. These Holy Oils, which are used to sanctify the Faithful, have been channels of holiness for centuries! The **Oil of Catechumens** is used to anoint the chest of infants and hands of adults before their Baptism; the **Oil of the Sick** is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, and **Sacred Chrism** is used to anoint the head of the newly baptized, the foreheads of confirmandi, the hands of a priest at his ordination, the head of a bishop at his ordination, and the altar and walls of new churches. These Oils are kept in an **ambry**; the Latin word armarium means cupboard or chest. At this Mass, all Priests make a **Renewal of Commitment of Priestly Service**, recommitting themselves to their Bishop and to their ministry to God and His People; the Bishop and all Priests then ask the people for a pledge of their prayerful support. All are strongly encouraged to join in the ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 7:30 PM

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration is held at St. Francis Cathedral, Metuchen, in *The Lady Chapel* located in the parish center at 45 Library Place. All are welcome.

LENTEN INSTRUCTION

So that the Church of Metuchen may be spiritually one in a common observance of Lent, the following days of fast and abstinence are to be observed by all Catholics of the Diocese who enjoy the blessings of good health:

1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.
3. From the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday until the celebration of the Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday, the Easter fast should be observed so that, with uplifted and welcoming hearts, we may be ready to celebrate the joys of the Resurrection.

The obligation to fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day hunger.

The obligation of abstinence affects all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat and all meat products.

The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe any penitential day in itself may not be considered serious, the failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of them without good cause, would be considered a grave matter. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform some other penitential act, or to abstain on another day.

PRAY AND FAST FOR VOCATIONS



HOLY HOURS FOR VOCATIONS

In response to Bishop Bootkoski's announcement of a year dedicated to prayer for vocations to the Priesthood and consecrated Religious Life in our Diocese, various parishes throughout the Diocese will host *Holy Hours for Vocations* now through November 2008. The

Monstrances which will be used at these Holy Hours were blessed by Pope Benedict XVI.

March 13 – St. Joseph, Carteret, 11:30 AM

March 14 – St. Bernard, Bridgewater, 7:30 PM

April 4 – St. Frances Cabrini, Piscataway, 7 PM

April 10 – Our Lady of Mercy, South Bound Brook, 8:30 AM to Noon

Visit www.diometuchen.org/vocations for the complete schedule.

DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY ~ March 29

Immaculata High School, Somerville – 11 AM-9 PM

For all teens from 8th to 12th grades: Join hundreds of teens from the Diocese and enjoy a day created just for you filled with Catholic faith, fun, music, skits, service projects, workshops, games, food, Saturday evening mass with Bishop Paul Bootkoski, Confession, and Catholic devotions with Contemporary Catholic Music and Rock bands. For registration contact the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office at 732-562-1990 ext. 1631.



CONGRATULATIONS

To Nelson Figueroa

Child of:

Nelson & Nicole Figueroa

Jack Westley Stier

Child of:

Kyle & Christine Stier

who received the Sacrament of Baptism on March 2, 2008 St. Brigid Church.

Pope Benedict XVI Includes an Invitation to Christian Stewardship in his Lenten Message

In his Lenten message for the year 2008, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, reflects on one of the fundamental aspects of Christian stewardship as a basis for almsgiving, his theme for this year. The pontiff observed that the Gospel teaches that we are only administrators, not owners, of the material resources we possess. Indeed, our material possessions are the "means through which the Lord calls each one of us to act as stewards of his providence for our neighbor," he maintained.

Our Holy Father also said that in predominantly Christian countries, the invitation to practice stewardship is even greater. "In those countries whose population is majority Christian, the call to share is even more urgent, since their responsibility toward the many who suffer poverty and abandonment is even greater. To come to their aid is a duty of justice even prior to being an act of charity."

Pope Benedict XVI invites us to embrace almsgiving as a Lenten discipline, a way to spiritual renewal and as a part of our obligation to be Christian stewards.

ARE YOU A MARRIAGE PREPARATION TEAM COUPLE?

The Family Life Office of the Diocese of Metuchen recently introduced a marriage preparation supplement called *God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage*. If you belong to a marriage prep team (i.e. Pre-Cana) or would like to become a member of the diocesan team, this training program is for you. A training weekend will be held Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29, at the St. John Neumann Center, Piscataway. Contact Judy Psota at 732-562-2467 for more details.

RETRouvaille - A Lifeline for troubled marriages

Has your marriage become unloving or uncaring - your relationship grown cold, distant - thinking about separation or divorce? Retrouvaille may help you. Sponsored by the Family Life Office, Retrouvaille consists of a weekend experience for couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions. The next program begins the weekend of March 28-30. Call 732-562-1990 ext. 1624.

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness is not to end in death; rather it is for God's glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified." Every aspect of our lives — our gifts as well as our sufferings — can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for others and ourselves.

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday~March 16th

Masses:

5:00 PM Vigil, March 15th at St. Brigid

7:30 PM Vigil at St. Elizabeth

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11:30 AM at St. Brigid

8:30 AM and 10:30 AM at St. Elizabeth

Monday~March 17th

Daily Mass 8:30 AM at St. Elizabeth

7:30 PM~Mass of Chrism~Blessing of the Holy Oils

At St. Francis Cathedral, Metuchen

Tuesday~March 18th

Daily Mass 9:00 AM at St. Brigid

Wednesday~March 19th

Daily Mass at 7:30 PM at St. Elizabeth

Holy Thursday~March 20th

7:00 PM Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper

At St. Brigid Church

Adoration to follow until 11 PM in St. Brigid Church

Good Friday~March 21st

St. Brigid Church

1PM-3PM The Last Seven Words of Christ

3PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

St. Elizabeth Church

7 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday~March 22nd

8 PM Solemn Easter Vigil at St. Elizabeth

8 PM Solemn Easter Vigil at St. Brigid

Easter Sunday~March 23rd

Masses:

St. Elizabeth: 8:30 AM; 10:30 AM, and Noon

St. Brigid: 7:30 AM; 9:30 AM; and 11:30 AM

Confessions: Saturdays 4:30 PM at St. Brigid

Wednesday & Saturday 7 PM at St. Elizabeth

My dear friends in Jesus Christ,

As we approach *Mercy Sunday* (the Sunday after Easter Sunday), we are reminded that the task of proclaiming and introducing the mystery of God's mercy, and imploring that mercy for the world, was entrusted to St. Faustina as her life's witness and mission.

St. Faustina was born in 1905 in the village of Glogowiec near Lodz (Poland) as the third of ten children in the family of Marianna and Stanislaw Kowalski. From her childhood she was distinguished by a love for prayer, diligence at work, obedience and sensitivity for the poor.

At the age of twenty she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in which, as Sister Maria Faustina, she spent thirteen years of her life performing the duties of cook, gardener, and doorkeeper. Her life, though seemingly very ordinary, monotonous and drab, concealed in itself an exceptionally profound union with God. From her childhood she desired to become a great saint, and she consistently strove toward that goal, working together with Jesus for the salvation of lost souls, even to the extent of offering her life as a sacrifice for sinners. Therefore, her life as a religious was marked with the stigma of suffering, but also with extraordinary mystical graces.

The mission of St. Faustina consists in: reminding the world of the truth of our faith revealed in Holy Scripture about the merciful love of God towards every human being, even the greatest sinner; conveying new forms of devotion to Divine Mercy; initiating a great movement of devotees and apostles of Divine Mercy who would lead people toward the renewal of Christian life in the spirit of this devotion ~ confidence in God and an active love of neighbor.

Worn out and weakened by tuberculosis and the sufferings she bore in sacrifice for sinners, St. Faustina died in sanctity in Cracow on October 5, 1938 at the age of 33.

On the first Sunday after Easter, April 18, 1993, in St. Peter's Square in Rome, Pope John Paul II declared Sister Faustina one of the community of the blessed. On the following day he said: "God has spoken to us through the spiritual wealth of Blessed Sister Faustina. She left to the world the great message of Divine Mercy and an incentive to complete self-surrender to the Creator. God endowed her with a singular grace that enabled her to experience His mercy through mystical encounter and by a special gift of contemplative prayer."

Sister Faustina was canonized in Rome on the first Sunday after Easter, April 30, 2000 by Pope John Paul II. At her canonization he declared that the Feast of Mercy would be celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. May we experience the mercy of God through the intercession of St. Faustina and may we take advantage of the opportunities for Sacramental Confession which St. Faustina promoted by coming to receive the abundance of God's grace and mercy in confession which we celebrate regularly at our churches as follows:

St. Brigid: Saturday at 4:30 PM

St. Elizabeth: Wednesday and Saturday at 7 PM.

In Christ Jesus Our Lord,

Father Puleo

From the Pastor's Desk:

The results are in to the survey regarding the Mass schedule for the Saturday Vigil Mass.

The 5 PM Mass at St. Brigid Church will remain at 5 PM.

The 7:30 Mass at St. Elizabeth Church will be moved to 6:30 PM.

This Mass change will be effective the weekend of **April 5-6, 2008.**

Fr. Puleo

LENTEN PRAYER

Lord our God, You formed man from the clay of the earth and breathed into him the spirit of life, but he turned from Your face and sinned. In this time of repentance we call out for Your mercy. Bring us back to You and to the life Your Son won for us by His death on the cross, for He lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.